Appln. No.: Amdt. dated: Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Claims 5-21 are pending in this application. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED

Respectfully submitted

Kimberly V. Perryl Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 43,612

United States Surgical, a division of TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP 150 Glover Avenue Norwalk, CT 06856 (203) 845-4562